

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03464 050759Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 EB-08

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /064 W

-----024368 050907Z /14

R 050545Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3188

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENGAGEN

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3464

MEXICO/COPENHAGEN/TOKYO FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IFIS, AS

SUBJ: U.S. SHRIMP FISHING

REF: STATE 72824

EMBASSY WROTE TO E.A. PURNELL-WEBB, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FISHERIES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, USING MATERIAL CONTAINED IN REFTEL. PURNELL-WEBB HAS JUST REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

"I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 20 APRIL 1978 CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. DEEP WATER PRAWN TRAWLERS OPERATING IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS.

"IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT PERMISSION WOULD BE GRANTED FOR FOREIGN TRAWLERS TO OPERATE IN PRAWN FISHERIES IN AUSTRALIA. THESE FISHERIES ARE CURRENTLY INTENSIVELY EXPLOITED BY AUSTRALIAN FISHERMEN AND INDEED MOST ARE SUBJECT
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PAGE 02 CANBER 03464 050759Z

TO LICENSE LIMITATIONS TO CONSTRAIN FISHING EFFORT AND TO PREVENT OVER-CAPITALIZATION IN RESPECT OF BOATS AND GEAR. THE WORKING GROUP, ESTABLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A 200 MILE AUSTRALIAN FISHING ZONE, CLASSIFIED PRAWN FISHERIES AMONGST THOSE IN WHICH FOREIGN PARTICIPATION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED.

"THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT PRAWN

STOCKS IN THE NORTH. THESE ARE GENERALLY LOCATED RELATIVELY CLOSE TO SHORE IN WATERS ADJACENT TO NORTH QUEENSLAND, THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, NORTH-WEST WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND IN THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 200 TRAWLERS EXPLOITING THESE RESOURCES AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OR INDUSTRY PERSONNEL WOULD AGREE WITH YOUR INFORMANT THAT THERE ARE STOCKS OF LARGE SHRIMP NOT BEING EXPLOITED BY 'ICE BOATS'. A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE FLEET CONSISTS OF LARGE SOPHISTICATED TRAWLERS USING DRY REFRIGERATION, CAPABLE OF OPERATING LARGE DISTANCES FROM THE SHORE." END QUOTE.

ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING RIGHTS, TERRITORIAL WATERS, SHELLFISH, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER03464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-1169
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780590/aaaacyvf.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0dccba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 72824
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2784766
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. SHRIMP FISHING
TAGS: EFIS, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0dccba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014